PLOT 'TIPSTER' FEARS FOR HIS LIFE

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 22 (UPI)—A one-time private investigator who told Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison he knew of five persons implicated in a plot to kill President Kennedy said Tuesday he feared for his life and wanted police protection.

David F. Lewis, 26, who knew presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald in 1963, said the persons involved in the conspiracy were "very vicious and capable of anything. If they're capable of assassinating a United States President, they would not hestitate in getting rid of any of the witnesses."

Lewis, a skinny, dark-haired man who said he relayed his knowledge of the allged conspiracy to Garrison, now works as a freight agent for a bus line.

He said he met with Oswald several times in New Orleans in the six months before the assassination, but would not divulge what he and Oswald discussed. He said Garrison's investigation into a possible conspiracy concerning the assassination should be taken seriously.

"This investigation definitely is not a hoax on anyone's part. There was a plot. I know about it. And I know the people who were involved."